

NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

Internet Address: <http://wdfw.wa.gov>

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Contact: Ross Huffman, (509) 653-2390

Mudslides close two access roads in WDFW's Oak Creek Wildlife Area

YAKIMA – Mudslides that blocked State Route 410 northwest of Yakima last week have also closed eight miles of roads in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Garrett Canyon Road and Mud Lake Road at the top of Cleman's Mountain were both damaged by the mudslides and remain closed to motor vehicles, said Ross Huffman, manager of the wildlife area.

All other "green dot" roads in the Garrett Canyon area, cooperatively managed by WDFW and the state Department of Natural Resources, are also closed, he said.

"One result is that there is no vehicle access into the Sanford Pasture area of Cleman's Mountain," Huffman said. "Hunters and others planning to visit the wildlife area should take this into account as we work to fix the damage."

The mudslides were triggered by a thunderstorm that hit the area last week.

Huffman said he is hopeful that the Mud Lake Road can be reopened to the top of Cleman's Mountain by early October. It is unlikely, however, that the Garrett Canyon Road system will reopen before next spring, he said.

Questions about road conditions at the wildlife area can be directed to the Oak Creek Wildlife Area at 509 653-2390.